

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Procurements from Russia are made only from such agencies as are duly authorized, by the Government of Russian Federation, for export of defence related equipments to foreign countries. Norms and procedure prescribed by our Government for making procurement of weapons/systems and other defence related equipments are followed by us.

Action against persons alleged by Tehelka

4427. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the tehelka.com a large number of officers in the Ministry of Defence and PMO are alleged to be involved in various deals for purchase of equipments;

(b) if so, the names and designations of such officers as disclosed on tehelka.com; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India has constituted a One Man Commission headed by Justice K. Venkataswami to inquire into the entire matter. The Commission has already started functioning and is expected to furnish its report within a period of four months. Further action in the matter will depend upon the findings of the Commissions.

Military to military exchanges between India and China

4428. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high level military to military exchanges between India and China has been resumed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the details of the efforts made to resolve the outstanding unresolved issues?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) After China suspended military-to-military level exchanges with India following our nuclear blasts in Pokhran in May, 1998, such exchanges have been resumed from May, 2000. These exchanges are part of the existing Confidence Building Measures and have contributed to the improvement of bilateral relations between the two countries.

These military-to-military exchanges are in the nature of goodwill visits and no formal discussions are usually held during such visits to resolve outstanding issues between the two countries. The Joint Working Groups/Expert Groups of the two countries hold regular discussions through diplomatic channels to resolve outstanding issues.

Middlemen in Arms Procurement

4429. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's policy of arms procurement does not allow any middleman or middle company;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Tehelka tapes refer to companies like Crown Corporation functioning in India;

(c) whether the same companies were also referred to in the affidavit filed by Admiral Bhagwat;

(d) if so, whether Government have investigated into the activities of these companies; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The affidavit of Admiral Bhagwat refers to a Crown Corporation.

(d) and (e) The Government have appointed Commission of Inquiry to probe into all allegations made by Tehelka.com. This Commission is yet to conclude its work.